

Meeting of the Commission  
February 27, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Murdock Room - IDHS  
Suite 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center  
130 W. Mason Street  
Room 104  
Springfield, Illinois

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Commissioners**

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro  
Robert A. Cantone  
David Chang  
Terry Cosgrove  
Merri Dee  
Rozanne Ronen (Via telephone)  
David J. Walsh  
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir  
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic (Via telephone)

Absent

Marylee V. Freeman  
Nabi Fakroddin

##### **Staff**

Keith N. Chambers  
Michael J. Evans  
Reva Bauch  
LaNade Bridges  
Donyelle L. Gray  
Evelio Mora  
Christine Welninski  
Aja Carr, Coles Fellow  
Ruth Dordoe, Coles Fellow

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**Members of Public:** None

**NOTICE:**

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

**I. Call to Order**

On February 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Freeman and Nabi gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray, that they would be unable to be present for the February 27, 2013 meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Baricevic and Ronen gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that they would be unable to be physically present at the meeting. Commissioners Baricevic and Ronen requested to participate via telephone. A motion to allow Commissioners Baricevic and Ronen to participate via telephone was made by Commissioner Cantone and seconded by Commissioner Dee. Motion carried 8-0.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

January 30, 2013

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2013, meeting as amended. The January 30, 2013 minutes were amended to reflect that the January 30, 2013 meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Commissioner Cosgrove and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.

**III. Chairman's Report**

*Martin R. Castro, Chairman*

Chairman Castro reported that he and Executive Director Chambers met with members of the General Assembly in Springfield regarding the Commission's budget. The Chairman and the Executive Director also met with the Governor and Jerry Stermer the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Chairman Castro and Mr. Chambers

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discussed the Commission's FY13 budget deficit and FY14 budget. Chairman Castro reported that the Governor is aware of the Commission's budget situation and will address the issue in the near future.

The Chairman reported there are several Commissioners whose terms have expired and that the Governor is currently working on Commission reappointments.

The Chairman reported that he also spoke with Senator Munoz about Commission nominations and having the nominations move quickly to committee.

The Chairman announced that he spoke to a representative of Housing and Urban Development concerning funding for housing cases received by the Commission. The Chairman will continue to update the Commission on the progress of these discussions.

The Chairman announced that he will accompany the Governor on a trade mission to Mexico taking place in April.

**IV. Staff Reports**

*A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers reported that the Legislative Initiative Project has been modified to include updated legislative grids and talking points.

Mr. Chambers reported that a memoriam for former Commissioner Maloof was posted on the Commission's website.

Mr. Chambers reported that there are currently six bills pending in the General Assembly that may affect the Commission.

General Counsel Gray gave a brief overview of some the pending bills, specifically those affecting substantive provisions of the Illinois Human Rights Act in the areas of sexual harassment and the arrest record provisions. These amendments were proposed by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, a private pro-business organization. Ms. Gray, Chief ALJ Michael Evans and Director Chambers reviewed the proposals and provided comments to Ms. Gray. Ms. Gray discussed these amendments with Lon Meltesen, the Chief Legal Counsel of the IL Department of Human Rights, along with a ICC representative. Both Ms. Gray and Mr. Meltesen voiced their objections to the proposed amendments, which appeared to significantly reduce the protections of the Act, and which also appeared to change certain procedural aspects of the Act in ways that could run afoul of federal law.

The ICC will be revising their proposed amendments, which Ms. Gray and Mr. Meltensen will again review. Ms. Gray stated she would report further on the proposed amendments once received.

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*B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Ewa was unable to attend the February 27, 2013. Prior to the meeting, Dr. Ewa submitted a written monthly report to the Commission.

*C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section's statistics for the month of January 2013.

*D. Donyelle L. Gray, General Counsel*

Ms. Gray issued general reminders to the Commissioners regarding their required Statement of Economic Interests filings and the expiration of Commissioner terms reminded the Commission on submitting Economic Interest Statements, Ethics Training and expiration of Commissioner terms.

Ms. Gray announced recent Illinois Appellate Court decisions which upheld Commission rulings.

Ms. Gray also provided the Commissioners with Employment and Labor Law updates.

**V. New Business**

None

**VI. Unfinished Business**

None

**VII. Executive Session**

None.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. Motion made by Chairman Castro, seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
General Counsel